CLAIMS

1.   An electronic database search engine comprising an
electronic memory device suitable for storing and
5   releasing elements from the database, a display unit, a
user interface for selecting and displaying at least one
element from the database on the display unit, and
control means for controlling the user interface, which
user interface allocates icons to the elements of the
10   database, which icons are suitable for display on the
display unit at mutual distances that depend on the
elements' degree of dissimilarity, wherein the user
interface at initial utilization displays at least some
icons on the display unit, wherein with the control means
15   any arbitrary position can be selected on the display
unit and in that, depending on the control means, the
user interface displays or removes an icon that relates
to an element of the database and of which the degree of
dissimilarity, in respect of the elements whose
20   corresponding icons are displayed elsewhere on the
display unit, corresponds with the distance taken up by
the selected position in relation to the icons displayed
elsewhere on the display unit.

25   2.   An electronic database search engine according to
claim 1, wherein the user interface adjusts the mutual
positioning of the icons on the display unit in
concurrence with the mutual dissimilarity of the elements
from the database such as to concur with the displayed
30   icons, in order to optimize the display area usable on
the display unit.

3.   An electronic database search engine according to claim 1, wherein the user interface provides means for placing a selected icon permanently in the centre of the display unit, while the remaining misplayed icons.

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4.   An electronic database search engine according to claim 1, wherein to the elements of the database characteristics are added that are involved in determining the elements' degree of dissimilarity, and

10   that the assessment of the dissimilarities between the various characteristics of the elements is adjustable.

5.   A method for disclosing an electronic database using an electronic database search engine, comprising an

15   electronic memory device, a display unit and a user interface for selecting and displaying at least one element from the database on the display unit, and further control means for controlling the user interface, which user interface allocates icons to the elements of

20   the database, and at initial utilization displays at least some icons on the display unit at mutual distances that depend on the degree of dissimilarity of the elements of the database that are represented by said icons, wherein with the control means any arbitrary

25   position can be selected on the display unit and in that, depending on the control means, the user interface displays or removes an icon that relates to an element of the database and of which the degree of dissimilarity, in respect of the elements whose corresponding icons are

30   displayed elsewhere on the display unit, corresponds with the distance taken up by the selected position in

relation to the icons displayed elsewhere on the display unit.

6.   A method according to claim 5, wherein the user
5   interface adjusts the mutual positioning of the icons on the display unit in concurrence with the mutual dissimilarity of the elements from the database such as to concur with the displayed icons, in order to optimize the display area usable on the display unit.

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7.   A method according to claim 5, wherein the user interface provides means for placing a selected icon permanently in the centre of the display unit, while the remaining displayed icons are subsequently grouped around
15   it.

8.   A method according to claim 5, wherein to the elements of the database characteristics are added that are involved when determining the elements' degree of
20   dissimilarity, and that the assessment of the dissimilarities between the various characteristics of the elements is adjustable.